

REMARKS

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claims 14 and 23, claims 15 to 22 and 24 to 26 are pending in the present application, since claims 1 to 13 were previously canceled. It is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statements, PTO-SB08 paper, and cited references.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 18 to 21 and 24 to 26 include allowable subject matter. In this regard, the Examiner will note that each of claims 18 (from which claims 19 to 21 depend), 24 (from which claim 25 depends), and 26 has been rewritten herein in independent form and to include subject matter of its respective base claim. The Examiner will further note that each of claims 15 and 22 has been amended herein without prejudice so that claims 15 to 17 and 22 ultimately depend from claim 18. Accordingly, all of claims 15 to 22 and 24 to 26 are in condition for immediate allowance.

The remaining rejected claims have been canceled herein, thereby rendering moot the remaining claim rejections.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of pending claims 15 to 22 and 24 to 26 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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